

Savages

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(6-2, 240) is a junior. Both have the experience and will be key in how the offense goes.

Cody Niemyer (6-0, 165) and Cale Stevenson (6-1, 185) will give Perry a couple of solid targets to throw to at wide out and tight end respectively.

The defense will also have a different look as they run out of the 3-3.

"We have gone to a 3-3 odd stack," Vermillion said. "We will show a lot of different fronts out of this set."

Five of the front six have experience from last season. Nose guard Ty Williams, defensive tackle Justin Wright and defensive end Brad Brown all have game time in the trenches. Brad Knight and Greg Rushing played in the middle of the defense last year at linebacker. John Blackburn is the lone returnee in the secondary, but plenty of players are ready to step up and fill positions in the defensive backfield.

The Savages will see some familiar faces and some new faces when the season starts. Wynnewood moved from a very tough district that included top ranked teams Velma and Ringling. Now Wynnewood will have top 20 teams Stroud and Dewar to contend with along with familiar foes Stratford and Wewoka.

"With our new district, there is a lot of new teams that we don't know much about," Vermillion said. "It's going to be a very tough district though. Stroud and Dewar are getting a lot of respect at the top of our district. We along with Stratford and Wewoka are all right there as well."

"We feel that if things go right and we play well, we could be at the top."

The Savages have good numbers but staying healthy is key for success this season.

"In Class A football you just don't have the numbers, so we must stay healthy and keep our skill kids away from the injury bug, if we are going to be a contender in our district," Vermillion said. "We must protect our quarterback and be able to move the chains on offense. On defense we must improve and not give up the big plays."

"Our kids are hungry and if they will buy into our style of play, we could be in the hunt for a district title."

The Savages have played well in their scrimmages but they start the season with a huge test as the Davis Wolves come to town. The Wolves are ranked in the top 10 in the Class 2A preseason poll. Eight of the final nine games are district game starting in week 2 with Wayne.

— Mike Arie

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